

M/H.

DOLGELLAU URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L
H E A L T H R E P O R T
for the year

1960.



DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Evan Richards, M.R.C.S., I.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR:

Ronald Pugh Jones, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

TO: The Chairman and Members of the
DOLGELLAU URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ending 31st December 1960.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General showed an increase of 10 on 1959.

The number of live births remained the same as last year and of these one was illegitimate. There were no still births.

The number of deaths was also the same as in 1959.

There was a reduction in the high figure for infant mortality of 1959, there being only one case.

Cancer deaths were the same as in the previous year and there was one tuberculosis death.

New notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were 2 more and there were no notifications of Non-Pulmonary disease.

No cases of other infectious diseases were notified in 1960.

No cases of food poisoning were notified, and in this connection a successful "Clean Food Week" was held. There appeared to be a greater awareness of the importance of Food Hygiene, particularly in regard to Fly pollution. Anti-Fly propaganda was carried out during the year.

The "Anti-Litter" Week showed a better response than in the previous year but the improvement was not maintained for very long.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

EVAN RICHARDS.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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DOLGELLAU URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Urban District	1,127 acres.
Rateable Value (as on 31st March 1961)	£27,18. 8.
Population (Registrar General figure).	2,480
Sum represented by Penny Rate (31.3.60)	£103.17.10.
Number of inhabited houses (according to rate book) end of the year.	760.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Comparability factors	Births	1.02
	Deaths	1.03

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
TOTAL 33	16	17
Legitimate.	16	16
Illegitimate	Nil	1

<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1000 population.</u>	13.35
1959 figure	13.36

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
TOTAL	Nil	Nil

<u>STILL BIRTHS RATE PER 1000 population.</u>	Nil
TOTAL BIRTHS - (live and still	33
Live.....	33
Still	Nil

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
TOTAL	1	Nil
Legitimate	1	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>	(Rate per 1,000 Live Births).	33.33
	1959 figure.	90.90

DEATHS OF LEGITIMATE INFANTS.

Mortality (per 1000 legitimate live births).	34.38
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DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS

Mortality (per 1000 legitimate live births)	Nil
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<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS under 4 weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
TOTAL	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 week.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u> per 1000 population		0.41

MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion) Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY (rate per 1000 live and still births) Nil

Death connected with child birth and pregnancy - Nil
1959 figure Nil

DEATHS. Total - 34. Male 14. Female 20.

Rate per 1000 population 13.75
1959 figures 16.20.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS. Total 1

Rate per 1000 population 0.41.
1959 figures Nil

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Total. 4. Males Nil Females 4
Rate per 1000 population 1.64.
1959 figures 1.63.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

One Medical Officer of Health.
One Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

Water and Milk Samples - Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth
Chemical analysis of water - The Public Analyst, Chester.

(3) Ambulance Facilities.

County Council Ambulance Depot situate in Dolgellau
Four Ambulances.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics.

Held twice monthly at Ebeneser (Wesleyan) Chapel Vosty.

(5) Antenatal Clinics.

Held twice monthly at Dolgellau Cottage Hospital.

(6) Orthopaedic Clinics.

Held twice monthly at Dolgellau Cottage Hospital.

(7) Tuberculosis Clinic.

Held twice monthly at Dolgellau Cottage Hospital
Mass Radiography Unit at Drill Hall on dates as
advertised. B.C.G. Vaccination offered to all school
children of 13 years of age group and carried out by
County Medical Department.

(8) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Carried out by Medical Department, Merioneth County Council.
Babies and young children immunised at Infants' School
Poliomyelitis immunisation carried out by County Medical
Department. Infants and school children in Schools and Clinic.
Older age groups by arrangement or by own Family Practitioner.

(9) Hospitals. One fully equipped Cottage Hospital.(10) Infectious Diseases.

Total Number of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
notified during the year - Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.NEW CASES.

Pulmonary	Total = 4	<u>Males</u>	4	<u>Females</u>	Nil
Non-Pulmonary	Total = Nil	<u>Males</u>	Nil	<u>Females</u>	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Total 1.

Pulmonary	Total = 1	<u>Males</u>	1	<u>Females</u>	Nil
Non-Pulmonary	Total = Nil	<u>Males</u>	Nil	<u>Females</u>	Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1960 in age groups.

Age Periods	New Cases		Non. Respiratory		DEATHS		Non-respiratory	
	Respiratory				Respiratory			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
2								
3								
5								
10.								
15								
20								
25	1							
35	2							
45	1							
55								
65								
75						1		
TOTALS	4				1	1		

G E N E R A L.

HOUSING.

Four new Council Houses were completed and occupied during the year.

A scheme to erect 18 flats on the Lombard Street Site was approved, the accommodation to provide for 6 old people's dwellings and 12 two bedroom flats.

The Sarn Road Development Scheme continued to progress during the year, although no actual work has yet been started. The scheme for conversions and improvements were submitted to the appropriate authority and were approved. It is hoped that this scheme will soon be completed as this area is undoubtedly a serious social embarrassment and a great contribution will have been made by the Council to rid the town of its worst slum problem.

It is appreciated that the Council are fully alive to the acute housing shortage caused by general applicants for housing accommodation and by a considerable number of substandard houses which require to be cleared. Unfortunately, the work of meeting the housing demand is being considerably hindered by the high cost of building and the unbearably high rates of borrowing. The Council are constantly faced with the problem of clearing substandard houses and thus obliging families to live in new houses with a rental of nearly £3 per week when the average earnings in the district is below £10 per week. Such a heavy drain on the family budget could well give rise to other serious social problems. If the housing problem is to be remedied, the entire position will have to be revised and much more assistance must be forthcoming from the national government in order to encourage local authorities in areas where the cost of building is high to really take positive action.

Overcrowding.

There are no cases of legal overcrowding in the district.

The position of seasonal overcrowding of dwelling houses appears to be on the increase. As the area is becoming increasingly popular to tourists, the demand for overnight accommodation is also making an upward trend. Due to the very attractive remunerative returns householders are prepared to cause their families to sleep in grossly overcrowded conditions during the holiday season. At the same time, many applicants for council houses make a great point of stressing their need for rehousing due to their bedroom accommodation being insufficient for a mixed family.

Private Building.

Only one private house was completed and occupied during the year. However, at the end of the year prospects for a marked increase in private building was evident.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The number of applications for improvement grants during the year was disappointing particularly having regard to the new type of standard grant which enables owners to provide the five standard amenities in houses.

There is still a trend for owners to consider dividing substantial houses into two or more units and there is a considerable number of houses in the district which are ideally suitable for this purpose. This practice has certainly provided excellent units of accommodation and at the same time helped to ease the housing position.

2 applications were received and approved during the year for discretionary grants.

3 applications for standard grants were received and approved during the year.

1 grant aided scheme was completed during the year.

The total number of improvement schemes completed since the commencement of the Act now amounts to 19.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING & PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No clearance Areas were declared during the year.

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

After informal action by local authority		12
After notice under (a) Public Health Act		Nil
After notice under (b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act.....		Nil

HOUSING MANAGEMENT.

The Council employ direct labour for the carrying out of maintenance and repairs to council houses. Major works of repair are put out on contract.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council continued to carry out a 'twice weekly' collection of refuse during the year and most dwellings in the District enjoy this service.

The Coedffriddarw tip is still being used for the disposal of house and trade refuse and there is still adequate tipping space available.

When the time is opportune it would be advisable for the Council to consider securing a new site for refuse disposal and in particular to obtain a site where proper controlled tipping operations can be carried out.

STREET CLEANSING.

Cleansing of trunk roads and Classified Roads is carried out by the County Highways Authority, whilst the unclassified roads are attended by this authority. Every opportunity is taken to remind the public of the necessity to keep the town "litter free" and litter bins have been provided in various parts of the town. The Council have also adopted a byelaw for the prevention of fouling of footways by dogs.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Conveniences are provided for both sexes at the Cae Marian Park and also at the Free Library. The Council have under consideration the provision of additional conveniences in the town, but as yet have not been able to secure a suitable site.

A male and female ~~parttime~~ daily attendants are employed to clean the Public Conveniences. Paper hand towel machines have been installed in the conveniences.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There has been no change in the system during the year and the sewer discharges into the sea outfall.

The sewer in Arran Road functioned satisfactorily following the provision of a storm overflow into a surface water sewer.

The sewers were regularly inspected and flushed constantly. Test baiting for rodent infestations was carried out during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE.

The private slaughterhouse in Arran Road was continued to be used and report on the premises was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Council are of the opinion that the slaughterhouse can be made to comply with the new regulations. The disposal of waste offal and produce does occasionally give rise to concern. As waste products firm undertakes removal of the material but unfortunately during the peak kill period the frequency of collection is unsatisfactory. It is very probable that the problem is not local and perhaps steps could be taken on a wider basis to overcome the difficulty.

The high quality of the home produced meat was again very evident and in particular it was gratifying to note that no cases of tuberculosis was found in cattle and pigs - this is a reflexion on the thorough and systematic work of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

No cases of cystecercus bovis was found.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year is as follows:-

<u>Bullocks</u>	<u>Heifers</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total.</u>
17	6	4273	175	4471.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASES IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There was no incidence of tuberculosis.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Total Killed</u>	<u>Carcases condemned.</u>	<u>Part carcasses or organ condemned.</u>	<u>Percentage of animals infected.</u>
Cattle	23	-	1	0.23.
Sheep	4273	1	25	0.60.
Pigs	175.	-	2.	1.1.
Calves				

Part Carcase or organs condemned.

	<u>Disease</u> <u>or</u> <u>Condition</u>	<u>Weight.</u>
Sheep carcase and offal	Moribund	33 lbs.
2 Pigs Livers	Parasitic	5 lbs
21 Sheep Livers	Fasioliasis	45 lbs
14 Sheep Livers	Parasitic	8 lbs
1 Ox liver	Fasioliasis	10 lbs
Total weight		<u>101</u> lbs

FOOD INSPECTION IN SHOPS.

The following Food was surrendered and condemned during the year:-

Part of Ox, Fore and Hindquarters (Bone Taint)	6 cwt. 53 lbs
Tinned Meat	90 lbs 2 ozs
Other Tinned Food	3 cwt. 2 lbs 11 ozs
Other Foods	1 cwt. 45 lbs

FOOD HYGIENE.

Food premises are inspected periodically and the attention of food handlers is drawn to the necessity of compliance with the Regulations. "A clean Food Week" held during July did much to stimulate interest and on the whole the standard of food premises showed a marked improvement. Routine visits together with persuasive action has assisted in encouraging occupiers of food establishments to improve their premises and methods of food handling.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply system continued to function satisfactorily during the year, particularly having regard to age and condition of the trunk mains and sections of the distributing mains. The town supply was drawn from Llyn Cynwch. In an effort to improve the supply to properties on the higher region on the north side of the town, the service reservoir at Ty Mawr was by-passed and thus a higher working head was obtained from the break pressure tank at Coed-y-Moch. In order to control the increased hydraulic pressure in the town's mains and services, a pressure reducing valve was installed on the trunk main before entering the town, this made it possible to reduce the pressure in the town whilst

at the same time a higher working pressure was possible on a branch main feeding the Penycefn region. In this way the supply was increased, but even so, it cannot be said to be entirely satisfactory and the houses still have to rely on their storage facilities during certain peak draw off periods in the day time.

The Council's Consulting Engineers submitted their report on the water supply system together with certain proposals for a joint scheme with the Dolgellau R.D.C. to serve the Mawddach estuary.

It is to be hoped that the scheme can proceed with the minimum of delay in order that the town and district can enjoy a water supply which is satisfactory in every respect.

Regular samples of the supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and on every occasion the water taken from the town main was reported to be excellent.

The Council continue to supply water in bulk to Penmaenpool and also to a number of properties situated in the Dolgellau Rural District.

MILK SUPPLY.

Dealers licences to sell T.T. Milk	1
Persons licences to carry on trade	
of Milk Retailers	7.

The Urban District is included in an Order made under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Area) (No.2) Order 1957, which provides that all milk sold by retail within the district must be "Specially designated".

ICE CREAM PREMISES.

Manufacturing Premises.	Nil.
Number of Retailers.	9.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council continue to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 and the Rodent Operator is employed part time, being also responsible for the Dolgellau R.D.C. and Barmouth U.D.C.

Rodent (continued).Inspections and treatments (-9 months to 31.12.1960).No. of premises inspected:

Local Authority.	10.
Dwelling houses (including Council houses).	332.
All other (including business premises).	167.
Agricultural.	14.

No. of premises found infested. 127.

Treated by Local Authority. 127.

Notices served under Section 4. Nil.

No. of "block control schemes".carried out. Nil.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No of premises on Register. 18.

No inspected re cleanliness. 2.

No. inspected re sanitary conditions. 4.

Defects found. 1.

Remedied. 1.

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936. Sanitary Inspections of the area.

Inspection re nuisances.	42.	Disinfection.	2.
Drainage.	37.	Water Supply,	301.
Sewerage.	21.	Private water supply.	7.
Public Conveniences.	156.	Street cleansing.	56.
Refuse Collection.	176.	Piggeries.	3.
Refuse Tip.	33.	Verminous premises.	7.
Rivers and streams.	12.	Infestations.	4.
New buildings. etc.,	43.	Re Building byelaws.	25.
		Dangerous structures.	5.

HOUSING:

Housing Act 1957. Unfit Houses. 12.

re Improvement Grants. 10.

Public Health Act, 1936. re Defects. 35.

Rent Act 1957. 2.

re Council House Repairs. 221.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Fried Fish shops.	4.	Bakehouses.	8.
Greengrocers.	12.	Grocers.	47.
Butchers.	82.	Cafes.	21.
Ice Cream Retailers.	9.	Food Stalls.	6.
Dairy.	6.	Visits to slaughterhouse.	168.

